

**AP WORLD HISTORY**  
**SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

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**Assignment Due Date: Monday, August 20, 2018**

***A HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 6 GLASSES***

**by Tom Standage (2005)**

The particular book you have been assigned to read is one that provides an excellent and thought provoking look at world history through the humble beverage. Tom Standage starts with a bold hypothesis—that each epoch, from the Stone Age to the present, has had its signature beverage—and takes readers on an extraordinary trip through world history. He explains how, when humans shifted from hunting and gathering to farming, they saved surplus grain, which sometimes fermented into beer. The Greeks took grapes and made wine, later borrowed by the Romans and the Christians. Arabic scientists experimented with distillation and produced spirits, the ideal drink for long voyages of exploration. Coffee also spread quickly from Arabia to Europe, becoming the "intellectual counterpoint to the geographical expansion of the Age of Exploration." European coffee houses, which functioned as "the Internet of the Age of Reason," facilitated scientific, financial and industrial cross-fertilization. In the British industrial revolution that followed, tea "was the lubricant that kept the factories running smoothly." Finally, the rise of American capitalism is mirrored in the history of Coca-Cola, which started as a more or less handmade medicinal drink but morphed into a mass-produced global commodity over the course of the 20th century.

I have limited copies of the book, so it is on a first come-first serve basis. However, there is a free PDF of the book online (you can find the link on Google Classroom). Also, used copies are available on Amazon for as cheap as \$1.

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### The Assignment

#### Part I: Thematic Summaries & Timeline

There are five key themes that emerge for each drink. Identify how at least three of these themes emerged for the six beverages. Present these themes in a summary for each libation (drink). Each summary should be about a half-page, typed. You do not need to address themes that do not apply to a particular drink, however you should hit at least three themes per drink. This is a chance to show me how you write, so do not just answer the questions. Construct a well written paragraph!

Five Themes:

1. Food and Nutrition
2. Medicine
3. Currency
4. Social Class and Status
5. How This Drink Led to Change.

Here is an example of how these themes might be specified for the first drink – beer:

- Why was beer considered nutritious?
- How was it used as medicine?
- How did beer determine social class status?
- How was it used as money?
- How did beer change society?

**Timeline:** Create a timeline of history including each “glass/beverage.” Your timeline should include at least two regions of the world affected by each “glass/beverage” and five dates with facts for each “glass/beverage” for a total of at least thirty dates and facts on the timeline. It does not have to be elaborate, just listed in your electronic journal in chronological order.

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**Part II: Discussion Questions**

In addition to chapter summaries and themes, you must answer **THREE** of the following discussion questions in detail. Also, Everyone **MUST** answer question 10 as part of the three questions you select. Remember these questions are designed to stimulate discussion, which means they should be detailed and written in full sentences. One sentence or one-word answers will not be accepted.

1. How might beer have influenced the transition from hunting and gathering to agricultural based societies?
2. What opportunities associated with wine drinking did men have in ancient Greece that women did not?
3. Why was wine adopted as a ritual drink in Christianity, but Islam prohibited the use of alcohol?
4. Read the following quote from the book. Do you agree? Why or why not? Support your argument with specific examples. It is not enough to say "yes, I agree" or "no, I do not."  
"Distilled drinks, alongside firearms and infectious diseases, helped to reshape the modern world by helping the inhabitants of the Old World to establish themselves as rulers of the New World." (pg. 129)
5. Describe coffee's effect on the balance of power between various regions of the world.
6. Why was tea important to China's economy and its relationship with other countries?
7. How did tea change history in India?
8. How did Coca-Cola become the world's most recognized product? How does Coca-Cola affect, and how is it affected by, people's views of the United States?
9. Of the six that the author discusses, which beverage do you think has played the most significant role in history? Defend your choice. What beverages have been left out of this book that might have had an effect on society?
10. What do you think is the beverage for the next era in history? (Do you agree with the author's choice in the epilogue?) Defend your choice.

**\*Parts I and II must be typed electronically. Please use Google Docs and share it with me using your CCSD email.**

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#### Part III: Socratic Seminar

These questions do *NOT* need to be answered in writing. Bring your book and be prepared to discuss the following questions some time during the first week of class:

1. What global processes are revealed by reading this book?
2. What do these beverages have in common (according to the narrative that Standage tells)?
3. What can one learn about religion and social structure in studying beverages (and/or food)?
4. Does the structure of the book work as a way of thinking about the history of the world? (Precedents: cities through time, commodities...)
5. How is the idea of "civilized" used in the book?
6. If you knew nothing about world history, could you read this book and get a global picture of world history through time?
7. Do you think this book has a universal point of view or is it culturally specific? (is there a "missing" voice?)
8. How could this book be used in a history classroom?
9. Discuss your favorite quotes.
10. What is Standage's overall thesis for this book? Do you agree? Why or why not?